

### AMENDMENT TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

(Mr. GEKAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, the support for the Gekas shutdown prevention amendment is growing every minute. It is a simple proposition, one that says that if at the end of a budget period no budget has been negotiated, then there will be an instant replay of last year's budget. Thus we would prevent Government shutdowns that caused so much havoc in the last several years. The most recent level of support has come from the Citizens Against Government Waste who sent me a letter just yesterday which says, among other things, "For too long Americans have watched the Congress and the President wrangle over the annual appropriations process to keep the Government running. Your Government shutdown prevention amendment would eliminate the absurd politics that lead to temporary shutdowns of the Federal Government."

Mr. Speaker, we have had 53 continuing resolutions, temporary funding measures, in the last 15 years. We have had eight Government shutdowns, the worst of which were the last two. Let us prevent it this time by adopting the Gekas amendment to the supplemental appropriations.

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### GETTING TOUGH ON JUVENILE CRIME

(Mr. BLAGOJEVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. In America, Mr. Speaker, more violent crime is committed by juveniles ages 15 to 19 than in any other age group. If present trends continue, juvenile arrests for violent crime will more than double by the year 2010. Under the juvenile crime control bill, which creates a \$1.5 billion grant, only 12 States would qualify to receive the Federal funds necessary to fight juvenile crime.

In the United States of America, Mr. Speaker, four cities, in four cities one-third of all juvenile crimes occur: in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and in Detroit. Yet under this juvenile crime bill, Mr. Speaker, grant money would not find its way into the neighborhoods of Chicago, the barrios of Los Angeles, or in downtown Detroit. It could, however, find its way in Jackson Hole, WY, and in Stowe, VT.

Mr. Speaker, major cities in fact will lose money under this legislation. The local law enforcement block grant which provided \$18 million to the city of Chicago could be lost under this legislation. The city credits this program for a 18-percent decrease in homicides, a 19 percent decrease in robberies, and a 24-percent decrease in narcotics.

Mr. Speaker, we need the resources to fight crime at the local level. Those resources ought to be in those areas where crimes occur.

### WHAT AMERICANS WANT CON- GRESS TO DO ABOUT EDUCATION

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, what do the American people want Congress to do about education?

Let me quote from a letter from Mrs. Jan Horan of Westminster, MD. And I quote:

Enough is enough, and the American people have had enough. When is the Congress of this country going to realize that the government is the problem and not the solution?

For years, the Congress has continued to throw money at what they perceive to be the 'problem' . . . the government at all levels is throwing money at education, and our educational system continues to deteriorate.

The government to the rescue . . . while creating all of these safety nets . . . a tax burden for the middle class has been created that is to the point of enslavement.

I want my children and grandchildren to have a future free of this tax burden, to be able to live in a country that does not have a substandard public education system

When are you, the elected officials, going to come out of your glass bubble and see what you are doing to this Nation?

Common sense is what it takes from the elected officials. Let's try using it.

Mrs. Horan, I could not agree more. I hope everyone in Congress is listening and will follow that advice.

### RESTORE FUNDS TO THE WIC PROGRAM

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, in this body we all talk about putting our families first and about balancing the budget. But I find it very difficult to understand how Republicans have cut \$38 million from the WIC Program when the WIC Program is the single best bipartisan program to help us put our families and our children first and take care of women that are pregnant, to deliver healthy children, and, and to save us money; because for every dollar we invest in WIC we save \$3.50. So cutting \$38 million is probably going to end up costing us over \$120 million in added benefits down the line.

I encourage my Republican colleagues to act in a bipartisan way to restore these very, very important funds to a program that has always had wide bipartisan support.

### THE DECLINING INFRASTRUCTURE IN AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

(Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, let me begin today by expressing my appreciation to members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for their efforts in trying to strengthen the Nation's school system. As a former educator, I am interested in the Clinton administration's attention to the declining infrastructure in American schools.

It is clear that the direct assistance is going to be certainly advantageous to the schools, but we cannot overlook some of the costs that are out there, and electricity is one of those expenditures, and the utility companies are the largest nonlabor expense for schools. Under the current system, everything, everything is a negotiable expense for schools except electricity, and in the case of electricity there is no mechanism at all out there that schools have an opportunity to shop around for. Direct savings on electric bills are estimated to range from 25 to 40 percent for inner city schools, districts and States with high electric costs. Such savings, freed up for use in upgrading infrastructure and teacher salaries, are certainly there.

In Dade County in Miami, FL, spent \$30 million; in Chicago, \$40 million; in Fairfax County right across the river here, \$30 million.

We cannot prepare our students for the future without saving some electricity costs. I urge my colleagues to look closely at the restructuring bill that we are coming up with in Congress.

### THE FACTS ABOUT THE WIC PROGRAM

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Georgia said earlier let us talk about the facts of WIC. Here are the facts about the Women, Infant and Children Program.

It feeds women, infants, and children. It provides necessary and critical prenatal services to pregnant women in our country. Fact: It works. It has in the past been a bipartisan effort, and the General Accounting Office of this Government has said for every \$1 invested in the WIC Program we save \$3½ in other kinds of expenses. Fact: There is a \$76 million shortfall in the program, meaning that we will not be able to provide for 360,000 women, infants, and children. Fact: The congressional majority, the Republicans in this body, voted to cut, voted only to provide \$38 million for this program, thereby leaving it \$38 million short. Fact is that 180,000 women and children will be removed from the WIC Program if this current bill passes.

This is about our values and our priorities in this country. We should not be passing legislation that denies food, breakfast cereal, formula, to women, infants, and children in this country.